



**BALL
JOINTED
DOLLS**

**SAILOR
LOLITA**

**J-ROCK
INTERVIEWS
CLEAVE
MISARUKA
ROSE NOIRE
TOKAMI
TRILL-DAN**

**EXTRAORDINARY
LOLITAS**

Camille et Margot
Claire

Belgian Cupcakes Magazine
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Editorial

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Introduction

Welcome to the seventh edition of Belgian Cupcakes Magazine, our second summer holidays (well Belgian summer holidays at least) edition. Our thickest issue yet with 38 pages!

Once again we cover Lolita fashion, events and art, provide you with recipes to bake delicious treats and introduce you to exciting artists with our many interviews. Not only do we have interviews with several J-rock bands ranging from Gothic Rock groups Tokami and Misaruka to Punk bands CLEAVE and TRILL-DAN but also violin duo Rose Noire. Aside from that we spoke with author Hugh Ashton and Camille and Margot of well, Camille et Margot: a new and exciting label of young accessories designers.

For the first time ever we have a spread, kicking off this new tradition with Ball Jointed Dolls. And in more news of new things, from now on BCM also has a cinematography section with Reviews of Japanese movies and dramas.

If that wasn't enough, this is the first edition in which we are running our European events calendar, which should come in handy I'm sure. I'm hoping that for the next edition we'll be able to present even more dates.

In the mean-time, please enjoy this issue of BCM, we had fun putting it together and I hope you'll have just as much fun reading it.

Hilde Heyvaert
Chief editor



Style Spotlight: Sailor Lolita

The *Sailor Lolita* style is often seen as the nautical little sister of *Classic Lolita*, and it is indeed most commonly worn as a style that is clearly classic in orientation. In reality, however, Sailor Lolita can be worn in a myriad of styles. You can go for a military substyle by adding military elements such as a sailor's cap such as those traditionally seen in navy WW2 uniforms to a military (or dieselpunk) lolita outfit. Seeing Sailor Lolita garments are often produced in a wide variety of colours, and not only the traditional darker shades of blue and white, it is also perfectly suitable for a Sweet Lolita sailor style. Aside from that you could be a contemporary pirate by taking sailor garments and adding the traditional scourge of the seas accessories such as a tricorn hat. For a sailor boystyle outfit you could combine elements of Kodona with those of a historical inspired navy uniform. Even punk or casual lolitas can mesh with this style and make it their own. In short, you don't have to be a Classic Lolita to wear and pull off Sailor Lolita.



Traditional Sailor Lolita in white x brown instead of white x navy for a Schola x Lumiebre advert (source: KERA June 2012).

As the name suggests this is a nautical style, reminiscent of the olden style bathing suits (back when bathing suits still had a lot more fabric to them) and navy uniforms of days past. So these elements are key. T-shirts, tops and blouses with sailor collar that are appropriate for Lolita are a quintessential element in this style. Make no mistake, you can't just add anything with a sailor collar here, they have to fol-

low the Lolita aesthetic so you can't just slap on a blouse from a costume shop, Japanese school uniform or any other old thing that just so happens to have a sailor collar. You may be able to get some of these things working with some of the substyles such as punk or casual, but buyer beware and I certainly wouldn't recommend it in any other case of Sailor lolita. You can easily distinguish suitable from non-suitable as the basis aesthetic of Lolita still goes for this sub-style just like it does for all the others.



Left: Margot of Camille et Margot in Casual Sailor Lolita. Photo by Hilde Heyvaert.



Right: Tania (aka Pixie-Late) in traditional Sailor Lolita. Photo courtesy of Tania Tanzil.

Traditional Sailor Lolita outfits are composed out of a sailor collar blouse, OP or JSK (in case of a dress, it is combined with a lolita blouse like you would wear with any of the other styles, in a matching colour of course).

Petticoats still add the necessary pouf (depending on what style you are going for you'll need either a cupcake shaped or an A-line petticoat).

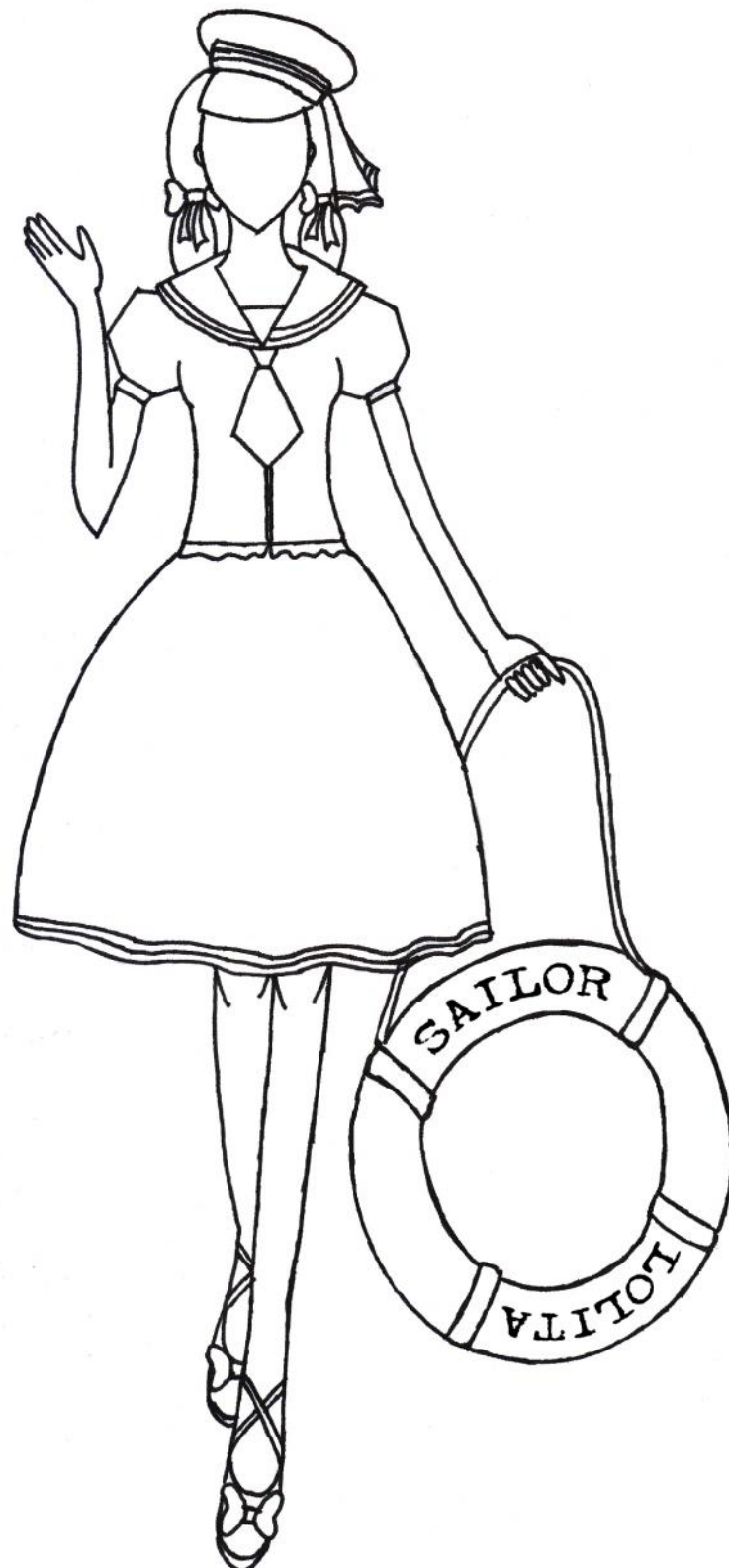
Headwear is also depending on what type of outfit you're going for but it can range from headbows that are either small and discrete to head eating size and everything in between; sailor headwear or a captain's cap. Of course properly nautical headwear is preferred but it's not mandatory. You can choose to use either your own hair or a wig, but make sure that the wig matches both your outfit and the style you're going for.

Footwear is the typical lolita shoes or boots, just make sure you get them in a colour that matches your outfit. The main colours in sailor are navy (or other shades of dark blue), white and black (although that's a little more uncommon than the first two). But as said earlier on in this article: other colours have been seen and produced by brands and if you're making your own outfit you can choose whichever colour you like, as long as it's appropriate for a lolita coordinate.

It is important to have a firm idea in your head of what style of Lolita you want to start from for your sailor outfit so you know what exactly to get. As always planning is key. I would advise to those new to Lolita to go for a sailor style outfit using the base of the substyle you like best. And if your thing really is sailor to look at as many examples to decide upon what you think you will enjoy wearing most.

SAILOR LOLITA

colouring page





Event review: Antwerp Convention

Antwerp Sci-Fi, Fantasy and Horror Convention



Event: Antwerp Convention
When: Sunday, May 6 2012
What: the name is pretty self-explanatory really
Where: Antwerp Expo, Antwerp, Belgium
Ticket price: € 8 in presale, € 10 at the door
Website: www.antwerpconvention.be

The 2nd edition of *Antwerp Convention*, or in full: *Antwerp sci-fi, fantasy and horror convention* really did not disappoint. As is the thing with conventions there was a lot of merchandise available, but contrary to other cons there was a very wide diversity and a lot of things at this event was stuff not seen at others. The sales focus is not just on the current hype, but on entire genres, which is a great change from many other events. What also is awesome is that it really does it's best to not only focus on the three main genres, but also offer entertainment for others such as a cosplay competition, video games and robot games as well as presentations and fun things such as a really cool band playing Mario tunes. Dressed up as Mario characters whilst at it.

Aside from that it is great to see how geeks from all fandoms just get along and have a collective good time, no matter what they are fan

of. There was none of the animosity that sometimes rears its ugly head at other places of collective geek gathering.

There was a lot of costuming going on as well. It's always cool to see the effort that many guests put into their costumes, ranging from really popular things such as *Link* from *Zelda* to far obscurer character representations. I'm inclined to say that of all Belgian conventions, it's at Antwerp Convention that you can see the very best costumes and fandom inspired outfits.

This convention may be on a much smaller scale than others but that makes it no less fun or worthwhile to visit. Those wanting to shop are probably going to eat their heart out due to aforementioned variety of things on offer. For just hanging out and having some fun with friends at a convention this one is excellent, especially seeing they have quite nice areas set up for socialising and having a drink. Entertainment wise it really does an effort to compete with its larger brethren and I found that it was far better organised than at that other larger convention with mostly the same focus that is programmed for the fall here in Belgium. Speakers were easily heard and rather than shoved in some cubicle they were on the stage, which was set up so that people wanting to take a quick photo could do so without being a hindrance to others. It was also set up in a way so it was easily visible and accessible. The entire con has been set up that way, with wide passage ways so it doesn't get terribly clogged and people generally have a good visibility of what's going on around them. For those that care about these things there's also a good amount of celebrity guests present. One more famous than the other of course, but it's fun to see the convention does the effort. Another very nice touch were the photo-opportunity statues they had scattered in a few places around the con, presenting guests with a fun spot to take pictures of friends and have their own photo taken.

And ok, there's not the greatest offer of food and drink, but there's places to eat very close by and you can just walk in and out as much as you like because they give you a handy stamp on the hand as proof you paid.

In my opinion this edition was even better than the 1st one, and I would recommend this convention to every fellow geek wanting to have a fun day out with likeminded folks. The only improvement, they could make, in my opinion, is to make sure that there's a printed program available at the entrance and a very clear time schedule on the website, but let's be honest: the lack of this is really nothing compared to all the awesome this con does offer.

For a small photographic representation of this convention, turn to the next page!



Belgian Cupcakes at the event: (left to right): Lora in lolita, Babs as a Slytherin Death Eater, Hilde in a New Paradigm scientist Dalek inspired steampunk lolita outfit, Malou as Pirate Amy Pond and Agnes in Lolita. Photo by Sam van den Bulck.



**BELGIAN CUPCAKES
MAY MEET**
Antwerp: sushi, cupcakes
& photo fun
Sunday, May 27



Fly Away Fashion TEA PARTY

Event: Fly Away Fashion Tea Party

When: Sunday, June 17

What: Tea Party

Where: At and above the Fly Away shop
Houten - the Netherlands

Ticket price: free if you had bought for €15
minimum at the webshop,
otherwise € 5

Website: www.flyawayfashion.com

For the second time Fly Away Fashion, a small indie brand from Houten in the Netherlands, invited Lolitas from all over to a cosy tea party in the venue above the lovely multi-shop home where also their physical store is housed. The result was that about 50 fans of Lolita fashion gathered on the day to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the shop, the new collection named "Letters from Paris" and generally have a great time.

I really loved how they had organised everything, both inside and outside was plenty of room to sit, mingle, take photos or generally have fun. People got a chance to browse, try things on and shop (which was entirely optional). There was plenty of delicious food and drinks, in a very wide variety to make sure there was something for everyone.

Whilst most people had brought their own camera and easily found someone more than happy to snap a photo of themselves and their friends, Katie and Eline of Fly Away had also done the effort of arranging a photographer especially for the occasion. They made the effort of well introducing all the events at the tea party and even held a little raffle consisting of six fun prizes for the guests.

It was extremely well organised, a lot of fun, great atmosphere and everyone did their utmost to look fabulous. Seldom have I seen so many different Lolita styles together, ranging from the main three styles of classic, gothic and sweet to lesser seen styles such as steampunk, wa-lolita and sailor. It was also made quite clear that people were to wear what they felt most comfortable in be it brand, off brand or home-made, which no doubt contributed to the friendly and open atmosphere.

A big thank you to Katie, Eline and everyone who helped them put this great event together, I'd definitely attend the next one!



Event focus: EuroSteamCon

EuroSteamCon, the very first pan-european Steampunk convention is an event of epic proportions that will, if all goes well, span the entirety of Europe. Hoping to cover all the diversity of steampunk it's particularly interesting to *J-culture* and *J-fashion* adepts because of it welcoming both *Victoriantal* and *steampunk lolita* fashion styles. We spoke to organiser *Marcus Rauchfuss* for a small shout-out about the convention.



Tell us more about EuroSteamCon.

The goal of EuroSteam is to create a steampunk event literally spanning the whole continent. For this reason we want to get in touch with steampunks from every part of Europe to organize the convention.

The plan is to get as many steampunk-themed pub moots, concerts, meetings, LARPs and whatever else the scene has to offer going on the same day. Then connect them all via the ætherweb and turn them into one event across Europe.

The European Steampunk Scene has reacted more enthusiastically than I had expected. I got responses from every country from Portugal to Russia and from Norway to Italy. This far, we have at least four locations for major events: Madrid, Luxembourg, Vienna, and Prague. The Spanish event will be hosted by *The Golden Gear* near Madrid. Luxembourg will be the second *Steampunk and Gaslight Convention*, organized by *Dilo Lompazius*. The venue is a very fitting former Train Yard with an operational historic train. The Vienna party will be organized by the people of the *Vienna Steampunk Pub Moot* and will be held at *Club Pi*, which also hosts *Vienna's oldest annual Steampunk party*. Finally, the Party in Prague will be at *Club Hoodoo*, which has been host to the *SteamUp Festival* three times already. It is organized by the *Alia Terra Promo Group*, which is quite a name in the Prague Gothic and Steampunk Scene.

All events will be linked via the web and we will set up a chat so you can participate wherever you are!



Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photos by gruftkitty, Karumi & Strange Artifact.



Right: Strange Artifact's 130JET (www.strangeartifact.jp) in a steampunk samurai outfit, a representation of Victoriantal steampunk fashion.

Left and bottom photo: AyraLeona (<http://www.rufflesandsteam.blogspot.com>) in prime examples of Steampunk Lolita.

How does this convention connect with Japanese fashion and culture?

There is a lot of cross-pollination between Steampunk as a genre and cosplay, manga and anime. The Neo-Victorian and Lolita subcultures you find in Japan can be viewed as an expression of the same mindset in a different cultural context. Also: *Steamboy* and *War of the Worlds: Goliath* are two clearly Steampunk mangas/animes, and there are others still. The connection to Japanese culture has been strong for quite some time. The more diversity in outfits, the better. Plus: I quite like Lolita fashion myself. It looks really cute but it is not for me to wear.

Are you hoping a lot of steampunks will go for the classic & steampunk lolita or Victoriantal aesthetics when visiting the convention?

I certainly do. Although I would not want to majority of people going for the lolita-style, since this is its own subculture with ties to steampunk esthetics, it is still enough of its own thing. So if a lot of people go for a Lolita outfit, it could shift the feel of the convention away from steampunk. But a group of people in Lolita outfit would certainly add some flavour.

As for Victoriantal fashion: the more cultural diversity at the convention, the better! I would love to see people taking their steampunk inspiration from someplace else than the "civilized west".

Any shout-outs?

How about one for you? And Strange Artifact!

Lolitas extraordinaire: Camille et Margot

Fellow Cupcakes Camille and Margot have opened up their own little accessory store, aided by their trusty knitting machine Molly, offering knitted and woodwork accessories perfect to top off a variety of styles outfit wise. We of BCM got curious and poked them with questions (not with sticks, that'd just be mean) which they gracefully took the time to answer.

You've only very recently started with the new line, why not tell us a little more about it so we get to know Camille et Margot a bit better?

Camille et Margot mostly makes accessories out of wool and wood. We knit all our fabrics ourselves before creating things with them. Everything we sell is a little unique since it's all handmade. We were spending a lot of time crafting, since we both really love it, and we got quite a few compliments on what we were creating. That's when we started thinking of trying to sell things at a convention this year. But we were both so driven to show people what we are making we decided not to wait until then. It's basically our love of handmade things translated into a little business, if we can call it that yet.

What motivated you guys to start your business?

When we were wearing our own stuff, we got some reaction of people who were interested in what we were making. We looked around other young shops and didn't really find anything similar to what we were making. That's when we decided we could only try and see if people would be interested in purchasing something.



Your knitting machine is called Molly, why Molly?

People who know us know that we are both geeks. There's no other way to say it. We both really love *Harry Potter* and when we were looking for a name for our dear machine, we thought of *Molly Weasley* who always knits sweaters for everyone. Plus it's a cute name.

What is the thing you seek for in your own works when it comes to creating new designs?

We mostly get inspired by the materials we come across. When we see nice wool new ideas start forming of all the things to make with it. It also grows out of things we like. We only make things we are both happy with. Since we have different styles in and out of lolita, the items we make can please more people.

What do you find the most inspiring for your creations?

Different street styles such as *lolita*, of course, but also *fairy-kei*, *mori girl* and *dolly-kei*. That doesn't mean they won't suit western styles though. Also as we said before the materials themselves, the wool and the wood we work with. And the knitting technique. There's just something about knitted fabric that we really love.

If you could collaborate with anyone else, who would you pick?

This is both a really fun and a really hard question. There are so many awesome brands and awesome people out there! We both adore *lolita fashion*, so a collaboration with *Angelic Pretty* or *Innocent World* would be a dream. We also really love Irregular Choice shoes and shoes in general. On a more realistic note working with shops who sell things made by young designers would be really nice. We both love shopping at *Fatima* (Ghent), *The Box* (Mechelen) or *Tante Jojo* (Louvain). One day there might be a collaboration with our friend *Annso*, who also makes super cute stuff. It will probably involve apples.

At the moment you are both still in college, is Camille et Margot something you hope to pursue as full time professionals after your studies?

That would be ideal. It won't happen in the next couple of years though, but it's something we are dreaming of. It would be amazing to have our own little shop. For now we'll continue to post our items on our *Tumblr* and see what happens. Keep checking it regularly!

Any shout-outs?

First of all we should thank *Hilde* for giving us some space in *BCM* to talk about *Camille et Margot*. We also thank all of you for taking the time to read this. Anyone who supports Camille et Margot by buying or spreading the word, thank you all.





Cupcake Focus: Claire

LOLITA ID

Name: Claire

Forum nick: kureakawaii

Age: 21

Styles: Gothic, Bittersweet
and Classic

Favourite brands:

Alice and the Pirates

Lolita since: 2009



Claire is one of the most active members of the Belgian cupcakes forum and can be found at most meets, sometimes accompanied by her trusty BJD Kiku. Hence these questions to find out more about her inspirations and doll collecting. And other Lolita related stuff too of course.

How would you describe your style in just five words?

Black, Victorian inspired, extravagance, experiment.

If you could make one change to Lolita fashion, what would it be?

The elitism. It really doesn't matter if you're wearing brand or not, as long as it looks pretty. Now, don't get me wrong, I really love some brand pieces and the quality is really good, but you shouldn't be required to wear brand to be able to call your style 'Lolita'. Just do your thing.

What's your ultimate dream print?

I already have it. It's *Twilight Circus*. I'm a big fan of the circus theme. But if AatP would ever make a dress with moustaches, I'd buy that in a heartbeat!

You're an avid BJD (ball jointed doll) collector. What do you like

best about them and how do you see them fit into Lolita fashion?

I like it best that they are so adaptable, each doll is like an empty canvas, you can do anything with them. When I got Kiku it was like the imaginary friend from my youth got zapped into reality. I think bjd's are ideal for Lolita, they can be like a 'mini me' which could be really cute or really creepy.

You study at art college, would you say Lolita and Japanese culture are a big influence on your art? And if so, in what way?

I'd like it to be a bigger influence, but I'm so afraid of the reaction of my teachers. I tried to use some Lolita influences once and the teacher started laughing at me. But I try to sneak some Japanese culture into my work. It goes from a little rice bowl on a table to one of my characters wearing

a kimono. For my project this semester I illustrated *Red Riding Hood and the Wolf* by Roald Dahl. I used some Lolita influences in there. Like the huge strawberries in the forest and the character of *Red Riding Hood* was based on myself and so she wore a black Lolita dress. My main inspirations for this project were François Amoretti and Polly Becker.

If you were a Lolita superhero, what would your costume look like and what would your special power be?

I'd like to have super strength and be able to fly like *Wonder Woman*, but base the rest of my abilities on gadgets, like *Batman*. How does 'Filly Justice' sound?

Interviews: BJD's, lively dolls

In our world of cuteness we sometimes encounter bjd's (short for Bal Jointed Doll) and other dolls. They can add to the sweetness, the creepyness or just serve as a very nice acceseoire. A very expensive acceseoire too, these dolls can cost up to €600. I talked to four different bjd owners and asked them about their opinion and their experiences. Our own editor in chief Hilde, Belgian cupcakes' Kathleen and Proserpine and Dominique from bjd café.

Hilde

How did you end up in the hobby?

A friend of mine had bought a BJD and I thought it was pretty. I also figured it would be a good way to get rid of fabric scraps if I made clothes for mine. Of course I got pretty bored with that quickly and my doll generally just wears the same most of the year.

What does your doll mean to you?

She's pretty and she sits all prettily in my living room. I have to admit I'm not your regular BJD affectionado, I only named my doll because of peer pressure, I don't do anything special to look after her and I'm not that keen on taking her along with me a lot of the time. I'm also not as careful as I should be, which is often a source of annoyance with other doll people. I guess I'm not cut out to be a proper doll person really.

Was the price a big hurdle for you?

It was, but I figured that I could always sell my BJD on again for a good price later if I really didn't want to have her anymore. The price is definitely what keeps me from ever getting another one.

Introduce your doll(s) in brief.

My doll is an MSD sized Dollzone BJD, I think *think* the model is called Shoyo, but don't quote me on that. I've had her for a couple of years now, although I can't quite remember how long. She's called Niu, after the Egyptian deity of mystery and nothingness (the void I suppose) because I felt like calling her that. She lives on a doll bench in my living room and often wears steampunk.

What's the best BJD experience you've had?

Hanging out with friends that don't give me grief over the fact I'm not more into my BJD and just accept me and my scruffy looking doll the way we are.

Kathleen

How did you end up in the hobby?

A long time ago, I think it was 2004 or 2005, a friend of mine posted a picture of a Luts doll on a gothic forum. After looking around a bit on the Luts website I couldn't understand why anyone would pay so much money for a doll, they're scary! Years passed and suddenly I came across the Luts website again. They were selling a fullset bambicrory Roko and I was sweaped of my feet by her. But I didn't want to buy her. In 2006 I went to a BJD convention with my friend. She already had a doll, so I could see if it really was for me. I bought my first doll at that convention. A Peak's woods Sky, limited edition. I couldn't get my eyes off of her, she was perfect! The price didn't matter at all. Even if she costed double, I still wanted her. I got her trough a layaway option of four months and that's how I got into the hobby.

What do your dolls mean to you?

My dolls are actually very important to me, I think about their concepts well in advance. So wich mold, character, eyes, clothes, face up, etc. They are more than just toys to me, I don't think of them as children, but as friends that comfort you or who you can have fun with. I think you could say that each of my dolls has a connection with my dreams, personality or fantasies, because I don't buy them without a reason and most of the time I know wich mold to buy for years in advance. That way I already have a strong bond with them, before they even arrive. Every doll as a place in my heart and even free or prize dolls wil never be sold.

Introduce your doll(s) in brief.

Quana Aponi from 2007 Mold: Peak's Woods Sky (SD)
About Quana: She was my first doll. It was love at first sight. She's a real drama queen and she likes to be in control. She likes men as long as they do what she says. She also loves fashion and she's married to Rekiora Jyrian, together they make the world a bit more beautiful.

Rekiora Jyrian from 2009 Mold: Souldoll Osu (SD)
About Rekiora: He was bought to match Quana. I also went to see if they would look nice together. He's a quiet and dark type who lives in his workroom deep under the ground.



He actually talks to nobody unless he's forced to. Rekiora 'd rather be alone or just with Quana. He's an artist that works with all kinds of metal. At the moment he's working on a sculpture with a head wich he got from Squbiro.

Squbiro from 2008 Mold: Dollzone Coney (Tiny)

About Squbiro: I won him on a photocompetition at

Dolliverse, a BJD convention. At first I didn't like him at all, but after some modifications I started to love him. He's Rekiora's sidekick and handles all the settlements. He's the quiet type but can be quite dangerous from time to time and only listens to his master.



About Cupcake: I saw this mold for the first time on

the Luts website as a fullset (in 2006), unfortunately she was sold out. After searching the internet for a long time I found the Bambicrony website and immediaty bought her. She was the reason I started with this hobby. She's all sugary sweet. She can never be mad at anyone and can achieve anything with those puppy eyes. She's all about pink! She seldom wears other colors.



About Yoeki: He was an event doll and is not for sale any more. He's Cupcake's playmate and can't talk. He's a 100 year old ragdoll with a life of his own.



What's the best BJD experience you've had?

Twinning with my doll during events. I have a white lolita dress, socks and shoes, the same as Quana. It's a lot of fun to walk around on events like that. But the very best experience is the boxopening of every new doll. Everything smells new and I can't help but to smell the dolls. Wich may be a bit weird. Meets are fun as well. I once bought a doll head, wich I received on a meet. I happened to have a neon pink fur wig on me at the time. One of my friends was so nice to put on the wig and shouted 'Look! Now it's a 'wuppie'!'. And the poor thing 's been getting the nickname 'wuppie' ever since.

Proserpine

How did you end up in the hobby?

I ran into the 'Think Pink' stand, a BJD shop in Nijmegen, on Gothic Fantasy Fair. There were all kinds of BJD's stalled on a table and I fell in love. And then I saw the price, that really scared me. A while after that I went to some lolita-meets where a bunch of girls ocasionaly brought their dolls. I found it fascinating how they handled them like they were real people, it was nice to see.

I kept thinking about the dolls and then one day I ran across a BJD on marktplaats for a good price. I decided to buy him and he became my Kameron. We went to pick him up and when his owner got him out of the box I immediatly fell in love. I held him for the rest of the evening and I even wanted to take him to bed, but my husband didn't like that idea too much.

That was the start of a passionate hobby. I registered at BJD café and Den of Angels right after that, to learn more about them, because didn't know a thing back then.

What do your dolls mean to you?

They mean so much to me. I'm 33 years old and I'm realistic enough to know they're "just" lifeless dolls, still I'm very fond of my boys. I think it's because each one of them 's got a certain personality, they are characters. Sometimes existing from stories I wrote over the years, others I made up on the spot. I dress them, give them wigs, eyes and face ups to bring out those characters even more.

I love to dress them up and change their eyes to make pretty pictures or just admire them. I'm very proud of my boys and I'm not ashamed of it.

Was the price a big hurdle for you?

My first doll costed €380 if I remember correctly. I thought that was a quite a big expence and I really had to think it over. But like many people in this hobby will admit you stop caring about the price after a while. From then on €500 for that perfect doll doesn't seem like so much money anymore. But I save up for them, I buy second hand clothing for them and I know some adresses for made to size clothing. Yes, it's an expensive hobby, but it's worth every cent!

Introduce your doll(s) in brief.

Kameron de Magali

Kam is a 70 cm Luts Super Senior Delf Regen. He's my first BJD and secretly one of my favorites. His character is part demonic, born from a brief affaire between a legendary incubus and a human woman. He's had a wild past and eventually found love with one of my other dolls, Daedalus.



Daedalus Amaranth Le Coeur de Feu

My second doll Dae; A 70cm buddydoll Raphael limited edition. Dae's more aristocratic than Kameron, although they are a couple. He is part Incubus and part vampire, gracious and poised, spoiled and arrogant. He's got the most wigs than all of my boys.



Cassiopeia Zah

Cassie is a 60 cm Iplehouse Mars special edition. I got under his spell when I saw his pretty face for sale. Cassie is my most feminin boy and the fact that I mainly dress him in pink doesn't really help. Haha! It's so funny when people call him a pretty girl and then hear that he's actually a boy! Cassie is a Djinn who's bad at fulfilling wishes, things intend to go wrong when he does. Cassie is one of my favorites as well. He's got a wardrobe that's as big as it's colorful.

Rynjar Zildjian 'Trigger' Du Baraque

When Soom brought out the Idealian collection I knew I had to have one! Each and every one of them were real beauties and I waited until London the Moor dark tan came up for sale as well. A beautiful boy with a delightful exotic flavor. Trigger is 51 cm tall and shorter than my other lads. He's a demonic prince from the distant land of Nawaz and was kidnapped as a spoils of war and ended up as an harem dancer. I love to photograph him, he poses like a dream!



Dragnen Fenrisulfur

My biggest boy is Dragnen, an Iplehouse Akando super hero body, who is just as tall as Kam and Dae, but his body is twice as wide. That's why he was appointed Alpha wolf of my lycan boys. He got an amazing face up with a scar and a wig with real dreads. D is a disaster to carry around, since he weighs 3,5 kg, but I'm ever so proud of him.



Senka Phillipe Aimee

Senka is a Souldoll Zenith Glaive who's 70 cm tall.

He's one of my more sinister dolls, as his appearance shows. He's gorgeous, but he's got this typical 'I dare you' look. He's also an aristocrat of French-Italian origine. He's got some outrageous outfits. His clothes are the most expensive, nothing less will do.



What's the best BJD experience you've had?

I really like going to meets and meet other BJD fans. I already made some good friends. My most recent experience is winning the photo competition at Dolliverse! The theme was Arabian nights and who would fit that picture better than my exotic Trigger. I was super happy with his picture and although there weren't that many participants I was very proud to have won! I've been in the hobby since 2010 and I've been trying to improve my photography skills ever since. It's the best compliment I could've had.

Domenique

How did you end up in the hobby?

2 or 3 years ago a friend of mine sent me pictures of Rozen Maiden BJD's. I already found them really beautiful and I wanted to have one, only, they were sold out. A year later we went to Japan on vacation and there was the Luts company store. I decided to buy a BJD and that's where it all began.

What do your dolls mean to you?

In the beginning she didn't mean that much to me. I thought she was nice to look at but I didn't do anything with her. I saw her as a piece of decoration. But since I've registered with bjd café, I see you can do more with them. Now I look at it more as a hobby and I find taking pictures quite fun.

Was the price a big hurdle for you?

Yes, it was. I would love to have some dolls but the prices are so high, a student like me can't afford them. I often look at cheaper dolls, but I don't think I'll be able to buy a lot of them. It's still an expensive hobby.

Introduce your doll(s) in brief.

I only have one so far. Her name is Sakura and I've owned her for a year now. A lot of people like to give their dolls a personality, but my doll doesn't really have that. I just like to put her in cute outfits which I buy or make myself.



What's the best BJD experience you've had?

Unfortunately I don't have a lot of BJD experience. I would love to go to Dolliverse, an event in the Netherlands with all kinds of BJD activities and workshops. Because of my exams, meetings or the Dolliverse have unfortunately been impossible. I do hope to become more experienced, I would, for example, love to do a face up on my own. I did have two mini-meetings with a few people and those were very enjoyable.

Article by Claire

Pictures by Hilde, Kathleen, Dominique and Proserpine



J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews.

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Malou Rottiers, Amir Sainz & Bert Van den Wyngaert.



404NOTFOUND
"START LINE"
 Single
 Release date: 13.6.2012

Whilst this band may not be all the special or exceptional, you can hear their love and passion for what they're doing

and that makes their music a lot of fun to listen to. In the hard rock genre they're one of the many on the J-rock scene, but their skilful performance on this three song single does encourage fans of this style of music to want to keep on listening to their new songs and rather inclined to listen to future new work. At least I'd think so. Singer *Akito* has a pleasant voice to listen to, and it suits their music very well which makes for a coherent sound. The songs on the single, title track *START LINE* and B-side *RESOLVE* match together well and prove the band has a great overall sound that remains strong. To prove this, they added a pretty much entirely vocal-less version of *START LINE* as last song to this single, which just proves how skilled they are in their own particular instruments. I would definitely encourage fans of the genre to check them out if they don't already know this band.



A (also known as ACE [Anonymous Confederate Ensemble])
Tales of the Abyss
 Album
 Release Date: 6.6.2012

The newest release of visual-kei band ACE is full of their trademark fast paced and melodic songs, loud and rapid guitar riffs and almost ethnic sounding violin

play. And it's that violin, with its very traditionally Irish sounding melody that sets the band apart from others in this genre. Sadly it, combined with the many heavy metal guitar riffs, can also make the music really very busy, sometimes overly crowded even, especially at times where it can be a little mismatched with the vocals. Luckily most of the time it's all pretty well tune to each other, making for a fun melodic album to listen to with a fair bit of style mixes such as the aforementioned violin and speed metal style guitar thrown in with typical Japanese Gothic rock, making ACE a fair bit more avant-garde than many of their counterparts. This all makes *Tales of the Abyss* a nice change from what you regularly hear.



BACK-ON
"Good Job"
 Album
 Release date: 05.30.2012

BACK-ON's newest album "Good Job" is a twelve song mixture of Rap, Pop, R&B and Rock. And even though neither R&B and Rap are generally genres I enjoy much I have to say that this album

is a job well done indeed. Due to the mixture of genres their music is far more inclusive to fans of different musical styles, making it easy to listen to. Lyrics are a good mixture of both Japanese and English and I have to say that the band's pronunciation of English is actually really good. There's enough variation in the songs to keep it from being boring, and yet the coherence of the album is still obvious and rather well done. This is definitely one of those bands

who's music resembles Western music of the same styles which makes them very approachable to people new to Japanese music. If you like contemporary popular Western music, you're likely to really appreciate this band as well.



Calmando Qual
"BLACK SHEEP"
 Album
 Release date: 27.6.2012

The third release by Visual-kei band Calmando Qual is without the shadow of a doubt one of the best, if not the best, albums I've heard within their particular genre of Gothic

Rock this year. Singer *Hibiki's* voice is both strong and melodious and fits the music perfectly. His range is pretty impressive also, as is the instrumental skill of the other members. Normally I can get really bothered by screaming through songs, but with this band it really does work and the different kinds of vocal work really suit the melody and instrumental arrangement of every song. I like how the music is more melodious than what you would expect from traditional Gothic Rock as it makes them stand out amongst other bands of the same genre in a positive way. It's always great to see a band making a certain style or genre truly their own and Calmando Qual has definitely succeeded in this. *BLACK SHEEP* is a strong album full of strong instrumental riffs of guitar, drum and guitar alike complimented by equally strong vocals full of personality.



CLEAVE
"The Circle"
 EP
 Release date: 16.6.2012

Tokyo based CLEAVE has returned with a seven song EP (6 songs + bonus track) pretty much full of melodious and fast paced punk-rock

songs. Even though the lyrics are mostly Japanese, even the fans of Western punk-rock bands in the same style will find CLEAVE more than a little appealing. *The Circle* is a coherent total of emotionally loaded songs that fit together like a glove, the three guitars adding to the sound without overloading it and the rather shouty vocals fit the arrangements fabulously. With the bonus track, an instrumental version of *Our Time*, one of the songs featured on this EP, the band proves that they can do more than just the punk-rock they are known for (and which they do very well indeed) and how skilled they are at making up arrangements for songs. Singer *Daihei Yamanaka* may not have the best and strongest actual singing voice but he does make this version work. I would go as far as saying that it's the imperfections in his vocals that make this acoustic song tie in with the rest of the album as well as it does. I like how the band isn't unafraid to experiment a little, not just by adding an acoustic bonus track, but also with the main body of songs on their EP, such as the spoken dialogue at the end of *The Circle*. It's a nice addition, a bit lengthy for my taste but that's a matter of personal opinion really. All in all, CLEAVE is a typical genre band, but they do it so well that they become prime examples of Japanese melodious punk-rock.

D
Concert review
Ghent (Belgium)
5.5.2012

The group was well prepared and even made time for the fans to let them ask questions which the fans liked a lot. After those the group hit it off with their first song in a blast, when that ended they gracefully introduced each other. They put the whole concert well together even with the small hall they had at their disposition. Over all it was a nice and well organised and they put a lot of effort in it. Their music sounded great and their songs were well performed. Overall a success.

To rustle some bloomers about at least one thing, I did mind the crazy fans ... I don't mind them screaming or doing a dance that takes up 2 meters of space, no ... I do mind when u put your finger inside a band member's mouth. Fans you can be as crazy as u wish but please behave... I want them to come back at Belgium and with that impression I wouldn't be surprised if they don't.



D=OUT
"Aisuru hito"
Single
Release Date: 2012.5.2012

D=OUT's latest three song single is a bit of an odd one out. The first song *Aisuru hito* is a straight rock song like you get a dime a dozen. The two B-sides are both in totally different genres. *DOPING!!* is a hard rock song with bits of death and

speed metal tossed in between for good measure. It's really quite alright and well performed, with some skilful instrumental displays of both bass and guitar, but it's not really outstanding or jumping out amongst the wide variety of other J-rock bands that do the same thing. The same goes for the last song *CAT WALK* which is in a more jazzy piano rock style. This mishmash makes it seem that the band lacks any real identity, and whilst the performance is alright, it's not masterful. Whilst it's nice to see a band experiment with different genres, on this single it just makes it seem like they're just trying their hand at stuff randomly which results in a total lack of coherence. Add to that the fact that none of this is really original or innovative and you get a rather mediocre total at best.



INORAN
"Dive youth, Sonik dive"
Album
Release date: 27.6.2012

The latest 10 song release by LUNA SEA's rhythm guitarist INORAN proves exactly how skilled a musician he really is and that, aside from aforementioned semi legendary J-rock band, he has a lot in his stride when it comes to writing

truly epic songs. It's become a prime example of J-rock with Rock songs challenging the definition of the genre. Sometimes they are straight up Rock, at other times avant-garde or Hard Rock and yet otherwise they are a combination or filled with influences such as Grunge. This makes it a very varied album and INORAN brings that variation with conviction and his own personal style, which sounds more confident than ever before.

Over the years INORAN's voice has grown and matured, making that his vocal work is stronger and more stable than ever. It's still not perfect but that's ok, because it's what sets his work apart from so many other J-rockers. What he lacks in tonality and range he makes up for in vocal character by the bucket loads. And his actual compositions arrangement wise are superb. He's not afraid to experiment within the rock genre and this makes that whilst every song has his distinctive signature it also carries a certain innovativeness and originality. Without compromising in any way, shape or form. Nor losing the coherence of the sound and the album in general. I am especially pleasantly surprised by the bass taking such an active part in many of the songs, but I have to say that I can really appreciate how he takes several instruments or effects to the

foreground at well-chosen times. INORAN proves once again that he is an artist unafraid to explore the boundaries of the genre he loves and widen his own musical horizon, something that is clearly audible in this album, as well as his passion for music. It most certainly is an album full of songs that represent the best of (J-)rock full stop.



Kiyoharu
"ryusei"
Single
Release Date: 23.5.2012

The latest three song work of Kiyoharu is another strong standing example of why J-rock is awesome. Also, I'm sure the fans of INORAN will be well pleased with this particular single as well

as the song *the sun* features the guitarist (and he's prominently present on the PV for the sun as well). Not that Kiyoharu needs INORAN to make epic tunes, oh no far from it. He is doing a great job on his own perfectly well, which the other two songs, title track *ryusei* and B-side *rally* easily prove. His melodious voice is perfect addition to the music and the musical atmosphere he creates will no doubt please many an ear. It's also clear that Kiyoharu keeps positively evolving as an artist as he just keeps on better and better with any release. His vocals and arrangements both get far stronger and more convincing as his career progresses.



Nevermind TRIBUTE
Various artists
Album
Release date: 4.4.2012

13 tracks of the legendary *Nirvana* album that redefined music history back in 2001 when it was first released, now covered by an equal amount of J-rock artists, with varying degrees of

success. Some, like *ONE OK ROCK* actually do an absolutely stellar job. I'm generally not really a fan of the band, but their cover of the iconic *Smells Like Teen Spirit* is superb. It was especially refreshing to see instrumental bands such as *Pia-no-jaC* have a go at covering songs, and whilst I wouldn't say it was an original approach of the band (I've known them to be better covers and it reminded me an awful lot of original work they've done before) it was definitely an original approach to *Drain You*, so purely from that point of view it was pretty awesome. Unlike what often happens with covers in the Western world, these bands stick to their own genre, making that grunge classics are suddenly executed in a myriad of different styles. And the English pronunciation is really good on all songs, so those fearing the infamous *Engrish* can rest assured that there is practically none of that on this album. If you're a purist fan of *Nirvana*, you will probably not appreciate this wonderful diversity. If you're a very open minded fan of both the legendary grunge band and J-rock, I'd recommend it.

TRACK LIST

1. "Smells Like Teen Spirit" ONE OK ROCK
2. "In Bloom" LOW IQ 01
3. "Come As You Are" BACK DROP BOMB
4. "Breed" 10-FEET
5. "Lithium" MAN WITH A MISSION
6. "Polly" trio Ohashi
7. "Territorial Pissings" 9mm Parabellum Bullet
8. "You drain" <--Pia-no-jaC-->
9. "Lounge Act" Four Minutes Til Midnight
10. "Stay Away" THE Novembers
11. "On A Plain" ROACH
12. "In The Way something" SiM
13. "Endless, Nameless"/ unknown (hidden track)



Oblivion Dust
"9 Gates for Bipolar"

Album
 Release date: 11.4.2012

Oblivion Dust is a bit of an odd one out in the Japanese rock scene. With perfectly bilingual (Japanese – English) Ken Lloyd on vocals the lyrics are in English, something you don't really see all that

often in J-rock. This sixth full album of this band is a breath of fresh air amongst J-rock bands, it has a very western feel to it, something along the lines of *30 Seconds from Mars* (although Oblivion Dust easily sends that band packing as they're far better) comparison wise. Genre wise they seem to switch between electronic and straight rock, but even when there are no electronics in a song the sound is clearly theirs. The level of coherency in this band's sound is simply amazing, and it's great to hear a band of which the members are so perfectly tuned to each other. The instruments and vocals simply fit together like a glove. And they make it seem effortlessly so, even though everything works to a T, nothing feels forced.

The occasional ethnic or experimental elements, such as on *Devil's Game* also add to the sound, every effect is a wonderful addiction rather than just filler. Ken Lloyd may not have the vocal range of many other J-rock singers, but he has a good singing voice nonetheless and it works ever so well with this band. His energy is positively infectious and you may very well find yourself wanting to hum or sing along from the first time you listen to this album. The juxtaposing between electro and rock is so well done that I'm quite confident that fans of both electro-rock, straight rock and electro (EBM and synthpop mostly) will really appreciate *9 Gates for Bipolar*.



Paniyolo
"ひとてま" (hi to te ma)

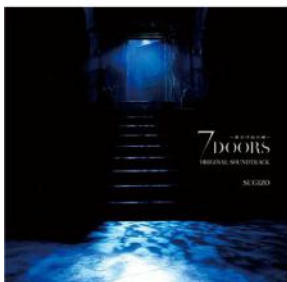
Album
 Release date: 11.4.2012

This 14 song cd is the second album of Japanese composer Paniyolo. It has become a, mostly acoustic, instrumental masterpiece full of soothing tracks in which the guitar takes the foreground.

Quite often the guitar is the sole instrument starring in these little wonders but when it isn't, it is always wonderfully accompanied by (an)other instrument such as the violin. Even when he works with a xylophone it works, kudos to him!

The music is soothing and relaxing, making it ideal for those loving some introvert songs in the background whilst studying or sleeping, or for people simply wanting to listen to relaxing songs without vocals or a lot of loudness.

Whilst there may be a bit of a lack in diversity in the tracks as sometimes it's hard to distinguish where one ends and the next one begins if you're not properly paying attention, the cd never bores. At least not if you like this kind of ambient music, if this isn't your proverbial cup of tea, I wouldn't recommend it. Even though this is a far more quiet and relaxed genre, it definitely does not lack in character.



SUGIZO
"7DOORS - Bluebeard's Castle"

Album (theatrical soundtrack)
 Release date: 30.5.2012

Following his previous albums, *Flower of Life & Tree of Life*, Sugizo wows his fans with yet another great masterpiece: *7 Doors - Bluebeard's Castle*, the soundtrack of a play based on an opera composed by a Hungarian classical composer Béla Bartók. Sugizo did not

only take part as a music director but also as the lead role of the play. He plays the role of Duke, who marries the heroine, Judith, and lives in a castle with seven secretive doors.

On this album, Sugizo steps away from the electric guitar and uses the violin and acoustic guitar instead. With Béla Bartók as his main inspiration, Sugizo created songs that corresponded well with each

act of the play. Some of these songs can make the listener visualize what is going on in the play. From acoustic to new wave sounds, each song showed various elements that were blended together into a compilation of beauty and suspense.

Not only does this album contain beautiful instrumental songs, but it also contains artwork that represents Duke's cold and melancholic castle. This album also has liner notes showing Sugizo's explanation for each song. In my opinion, this is an album that is definitely worth buying.

Most favorite song:

"Judith"

This song represents the female character, Judith. With simple piano sounds, this song reveals Judith as a person filled with great strength, innocence, and purity. You can really feel a great sense of positivity and happiness coming from the piano & string melodies.

Least favorite song:

"Song of Sinners"

This song is simple, almost too simple. Although the acoustic guitar sounds are relaxing and meant to show a sense of foolishness and guilt, it is a song that is too quiet for my ears.



TRILL-DAN
"HANGYAKU SEIMEI"

Album
 Release date: somewhere in June 2012, out now in any case.

I have nothing but utter and total love for the latest TRILL-DAN full cd. I love how they make every song a little dif-

ferent from the other and yet keep their own distinctive punk-rock style so very much alive and recognisable. The arrangements and vocals are an interwoven total of fantastic fast paced melodious punk-rock and the vocals of JUAN and MARU are carried by the music in a way that they become such as complete total that this band rises above the many others in the same genre. It doesn't matter if you don't speak a single word of Japanese, it comes across fabulously regardless. This is punk-rock in the very best tradition of the genre. TRILL-DAN can easily measure up to western legends such as L7 or the Runaways and compete with the great of Japan playing the same style. I have no doubt that it's just a matter of time before this band is right up there with them. I literally love everything about this band, the epic deep purr of the bass, the rhythm of the drums, the vocals and the magisterial guitar work. I could go on endlessly about how genius this band is but really, go listen for yourself, if you like punk-rock you're really not likely to regret it.

Interview with TRILL-DAN

Japanese punk-rock band Trill-Dan was recently one of the performing guests at MiA4 in Brussels, I had the pleasure of briefly talking to them and their team on site and was told that if I wanted to interview them, I just had to send in the questions. Of course further introducing this fantastic band to the readers of BCM was an opportunity I was not about to pass on.



Trill-Dan at Made in Asia 4. Left to right: MARU, GIVA and JUAN.

If you had to describe your music in 5 words, what would those be?

JUAN: the liberation of the instinct.

MARU: the liberation of the instinct.

GIVA: the liberation of the instinct.

What's your fondest memory of your time in Belgium?

JUAN: The beer was very good! And it was great fun to participate in the convention!

MARU: It was the first time I visited the country but I was pleasantly surprised to see the Belgian audience embrace our music with open arms. And to realise they spoke Japanese very well.

GIVA: There was a very warm atmosphere in the towns and the people were very welcoming. It's brilliant to be able to create a link with the Belgian audience via music.

You've performed at several European conventions, what do you like best about lives at events like these?

JUAN: These events give us the opportunity to introduce ourselves to a lot of people. That makes us very happy. And because we always wish that the audience listens to us in both the auditive and physical sense the concerts are the best way to directly convey the sensations that our music brings to the public.

MARU: I am delighted to experience moments where I can see that we can touch people's hearts even though the lyrics are in Japanese. I am also delighted to feel all the love that the public has for Japan.

GIVA: I am happy to be able to meet more people thanks to our musique and to be able to introduce them to Japan even better.

For you personally what is the difference between playing at a convention and a proper gig?

JUAN: In the case of conventions, the physical setting, such

as room size and the limit of the number of decibels allowed. It is different and varies the sound. Since we prefer that the public hear our music at a very high volume, we want it to be like that in Europe too. However, this does not change the concerts at all. We always try to be comfortable and let go on stage.

MARU: There's a difference in motivation. I think it's the most important to get the audience interested in Trill-Dan when we play at a convention. Whilst at a concert the majority of the people attending already know us. Therefore we always do our very best when we play to make that stage performance more impressive than previous one. In both cases one suffers from some pressure. But these are two different forms of pressure.

GIVA: At our concerts we try to do our very best in a familiar environment. At foreign conventions we often perform in a location where we can't freely communicate in Japanese and at a venue we've never played at before. That makes us stressed but not in the same way like we are in Japan because we are more worried about the performance on scene as we're unsure whether we are able to make our messages come across via our music.

What inspires you the most when creating your music?

JUAN: A scene of a movie, a book, a manga, a game, a television commercial, a flyer... These are all things that touch me and are important to me.

MARU: Things that happen in daily life. I permanently live with a tense antenna.

GIVA: Events in day to day life. Especially emotional moments where I felt happy, angry, sad or hopeful etc.

If you could choose any artist to collaborate with - dead or alive - who would it be?

JUAN: *hide* of *X Japan*. It's because of him I've started playing the guitar.

MARU: *Zebrahead*, it's because of that band that Trill-Dan was formed.

GIVA: *Red Hot Chili Peppers*.

What's your ultimate dream for the band?

JUAN: I would love to perform on the international scene with Trill-Dan. I'd also love to participate in the creation of a world in which there are more girls with the Rock 'n' Roll attitude playing the guitar.

MARU: A world tour.

GIVA: A world tour.

Official website:

<http://www.trdan.jp/>

Trill-Dan is:

Vocals and guitar: JUAN

Vocals and bass: MARU

Drums: GIVA



interview with tokami

Japanese Gothic rock band Tokami are often seen as one of the last representatives of old skool Visual Kei, just released their very first best of album titled "Schwarz Kain" on Starwave Records containing rerecorded tracks with the current band members. They were kind enough to take out some time from their busy schedule for BCM to answer the questions we emailed to them.



If you had to describe your music in 5 words, which would you choose?

Agato: Madness, glossy

シゲ: Black, rage, negative, fist, ramen (Japanese noodles)

K: dark, hard, scary, loud, crazy

いちか: Beautiful, madness, refreshing, glossy, extreme.

1000: (T)iger (O)ops (K)ind (A)ngel (M)ath (I)ntelligence!

Oops one too many *laughs*.

You have a very distinctive look and have collaborated with SUPPURATE SYSTEM on an accessories line, how big an influence is fashion on your music?

Agato: It makes a good image of the vampire. Tokami's view of the world has a gothic horror feel to it. Gothic horror and vampires are very related.

いちか: I have designed a necklace and when I wear that to lives impressions change. It also goes well with plain clothes.

1000: I have designed the *Eyepatch of butterflies and the Cross*. I have always been thinking about the design of costumes and accessories.

Would you ever want to design your own fashion line?

いちか: I have no plans for a fashion line.

1000: Of course I want to design my fashion line.

What goal do you most aspire towards as a band?

Agato: There is no ultimate goal because satisfaction does not produce anything.

1000: Compose music that will still be sung even after a century.

You're releasing your first best of album, **Schwarz Kain**, this spring, what are your hopes for it?

Tokami's globalisation as we also think it's something our overseas fans would want to hear.



How did you come up with the title?

Schwarz is the German word for black and Kain as the character of the Old Testament. It's a coined word.

What kind of job would you be doing if you weren't making music?

Agato: I'd be dead.

シゲ: Cock.

K: Police officer.

いちか: Does not fit into normal human?

1000: Office worker.

Do you have a message for your fans in Belgium?

Agato: I love Belgian chocolate and Belgian waffles.

シゲ: Buy a Tokami CD and memorize the songs. In school you can be proud, that appears in the iPhone which is cool and exciting! Only good things will come from it!!

K: Listen to the new album and please come to one of our lives if you are given the chance to come to Japan. I will try to go to Belgium with the band ourselves!

いちか: *Schwarz Kain* is the best of collection of Tokami. Please listen to the CD.

1000: I go drink a Belgian beer sometimes!

Official website: <http://tokami.heavy.jp/>

Tokami is:

Vocals: Agato

Guitar: K

Guitar: Shige (シゲ)

Bass: Ichika (いちか)

Drums: 1000 (Sen)



INTERVIEW WITH MISARUKA

Visual-kei band *Misaruka* has just released their first full album titled *Episodes - Merrow*. Intrigued by their melodic sound containing symphonic elements BCM send them some questions, which they were kind enough to answer.



This is our regular opening question: if you had to describe your music in 5 words, which would you choose?

Rui: Rui, Rin, Sawah, Azami, Vetchie.

Rin: Grace, Love, Eternity, Madness, Happiness.

Sawah: Misaruka, Liquor, Fashion, I thought that it might become the popularity to a girl.

Azami: Peace, Despair, Nostalgia, Passion, Happy ending.

Vetchie: Emotion, Oneself, Greed, Pop, Challenge.

You have a very distinctive look and have collaborated with SUPPURATE SYSTEM on an accessories line, how big an influence is fashion on your music? Would you ever want to design your own fashion line?

Rui: The accessories of SUPPURATE SYSTEM became one of the new elements to express music of Misaruka, and I am very thankful for it. Our work is making the world of Misaruka. I will make the fashion, if it is necessary.

Rin: The fashion does not affect the music, because we produce the fashion with music. The fashion and the music do not influence it each other. I want to design my fashion line sometime.

Sawah: The appearance is very important for Misaruka. I am interested in designing my own fashion line.

Azami: The word "visual kei" has a visual meaning. The fashion is very important for us to express music.

Vetchie: I was influenced. It was very good to investigate the Gothic world.

Your new album *Episodes - Merrow* is your first full CD, what were your main inspirations when you wrote the songs and is there a specific message you would like to convey to the listener?

Rui: I received inspiration from *Little Mermaid* by Andersen. But our story is an original story. Please listen to the music well and imagine a scene.

Rin: I want to convey love of various form in the story -*Merrow*-, and I want you to reconfirm the love that you have.

Sawah: I made it in the image of a story. I will be glad if you feel a story of -*Merrow*-.

Azami: Sleep if you close a picture book, and go to look for your story.

Vetchie: I want to convey the story.



Your new look has a strong rococo vibe to it, is that historical time period a large influence to the music on your new album and if so, how exactly are you influenced by it?

Rui: We have faith introducing a good old thing. The good old culture always has a great influence on us.

Rin: This is my appearance. The fashion and the music do not influence each other. All factors make myself, and all those elements are come from me

Azami: I am affected by rock musicians who are affected by baroque music. I should learn about the classic works more.

Vetchie: I was able to enter the world of the story. I think that to be good for a storyteller.

What countries would you still love to perform in? And do you have any concrete plans for a tour outside Japan?

Rui: There is no plan for the overseas tour that we can announce now. I want to give a performance positively in every country of any place.

Rin: I have a lot of such questions by an interview from the overseas media. I really want to perform the overseas tour, but we do not have concrete plans. I want to play the guitar all over the world someday.

Sawah: I want to go to Belgium. Please cooperate so that Misaruka realizes a performance in Belgium

Azami: I was born in Los Angeles, so I want to go to the USA.

Vetchie: Belgium. And all the countries.

Do you have a message for your fans in Belgium?

Rui: The thought of everybody of the fans may call us. Surely I go to meet you.

Rin: I send love from me to the Belgians. Please spend the beautiful life. Thank you.

Sawah: ohayosu-. I want to drink with you sometime.

Azami: Listen to much good music, please live a happy life.

Vetchie: I go to Belgium to tell everybody about wonderful music sometime and to eat chocolate.

Official website: <http://misaruka.syncl.jp/>

Misaruka is:

Vocals: Rui

Guitar: Rin

Guitar: Sawah

Bass: Azami

Drums: Vetchie



interview with *Rose Noire*

Brother and sister duo Louie and Jill of Rose Noire have graced the music industry with their juxtaposing of classical (violin) music combined with modern musical programming and influences for years, composing original songs enjoyed by fans of both classic and modern genres of music. BCM send them some questions for which they were kind enough to take time from their busy schedule promoting their upcoming EP "*Neo Renaissance-1st Movement*-" to answer them. Thanks guys!



If you had to describe your music in 5 words, what would those be?

Louie: Aesthetic, Beauty, Heavy, Philosophical, Dark.

You have a distinguished look and have collaborated with *Suppurate System* on a jewellery line, how important is fashion to you? Is it a big influence on your music?

Louie: I think appearance is important because it is a way to express ourselves! If we have a chance to design a fashion line, we want to do it ourselves!

You've toured in the US and Mexico, which is somewhat of a mecca for Gothic artists, what did you like best about your time there? How would you say playing abroad differs from performing in Japan?

Louie: The US and Mexico were both wonderful! You know our music is very unique and one and only, in countries abroad, they are very curious about new and unique sounds.

Where in the world would you still like to perform? Are there any plans for an upcoming tour?

Louie: Next we want to go to Europe but there are no plans now. I hope there is the opportunity for having that tour!

Are there any bands you hope to tour and/or collaborate with in the future?

Louie: There are many so it's difficult to choose. And my idea is that it will be nice to have a collaboration with dancers!

Your band's name is in French, as is the title of your EP "*Le Paradis de la Psychose*". Do you plan on writing lyrics in French at some point?

Louie: Ok, please teach me French and the pronunciation! Be my teacher!

What's your best and your worst memory of being in Rose Noire?

Louie: *The best* is we can see fans smile and hear them say "I love Rose Noire". *The worst* is ...having a show in a bad environment, meaning the place is not right for a show. It's difficult to have a good show in those.

Do you have an all-time favourite type of violin? Do you play any other instruments than the violin and the viola?

Jill: Yes, I have. And I play only the Violin and the Viola.

Louie: I play the Violin but cannot play the Viola. I play the piano too.

What message would you like to convey to your Belgian fans?

Jill: Thank you for a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see you. I want to go to Belgium and meet you, extremely!! So please invite us and support us. I love you!!!

Louie: hi, thank you for reading this interview! I'm looking forward to meet you in the near future! I love you! And if we have a show there, let's drink Belgian beer together after it!!

Rose Noire is releasing their next EP "*Neo Renaissance – 1st Movement*-" on July 25 2012. It is already available in pre-order via the *Dark-est Labyrinth* website, amazon.jp and cdjapan amongst others.



Official website: <http://rosenoire.info/>



Interview with CLEAVE

Tokyo based punk band CLEAVE have just released their latest album, *The Circle*, here in Europe. Because we love to introduce you to bands, we spoke to guitarist and vocalist Daihei Yamanaka via the glorious medium of email so you can all learn a little more about this great Japanese group and their music.



If you had to describe your music in 3 words, which would you choose?

Melodic, thick, classic.

You're a Punk band, what do you love most about that genre?

Basically we listen to any kind of music. Especially we listen to Punk-rock, Hardcore and any kind of Rock music. For particular members, we are listening to Folk, Country, Hip-hop, R&B, Metal and some Japanese music.

I love *Chuck Ragan* very much and one of a member is now very into Japanese *Idol* *laughs*!

I can't tell what is the best but I can say we are all grown up with Punk-rock music.

Name the top three artists (working in any style or form of art) that have prominently influenced you and why?

Sylvester Stallone: He is totally the toughest in the world. I don't know who can shoot a hand gun like at that speed in the movie *The Expendables*.

Pee Wee Herman: He showed me what is human. Money is gonna disturb the heart and make you lose control.

Bruce Springsteen: He is The Boss for me of all time.

If you got to collaborate with any punk musician, dead or alive, who would you choose and why?

This is tough to answer... sorry.

You all play an instrument in the band, which is your favourite brand and type of the instrument you use?

I'm using a *Gibson Les Paul Special* and *Squire Tele* (Telecaster) with *P-90*. I love *Gibson* guitars. And I'm interested in the *Eastwood guitars Hi-Flyer Phase4*. You know what: we are instrument geeks and kinda *Pedal Stokers*! I love too many brands.

Tomo (Kamata, one of the band's guitarists) loves *Fuji-gen Expert FL*, and it sounds really good.



Your album "*The Circle*" is being released in Europe, are you going to come over here and do a European tour next?

We don't actually have any plans for that but *Greg* from *Street Machine Records* is trying to spread news about

us in Europe now. And we are really positive about doing a tour in Europe. I hope that we can announce the date some day. Maybe next year, I don't know ... but we definitely will go to Europe!

If you could stop any musical genre dead in its tracks, which would you end and why?

We don't want to stop any music genre dead! We love to be in different kinds of music and people. Because

we can be as ourselves in where we can be different.

What kind of job would you do if you weren't making music?

Well... I don't know but when I was little I wanted to be a taxi driver *laughs*.

What is your ultimate dream for the band?

Tour with *Aerosmith* *laughs*!! Nobody knows what's gonna happen in the future. We all have jobs, so it's hard to be a full time touring band. But there is a way to tour several times in a year and keep on making music. We can do short tours like two weeks for twice or thrice in a year. Now we are looking for the way that we are gonna fit it in.

It's a dream to tour all over the world for us!

Do you have a message for your fans in Belgium?

I've never been to Belgium in my life. I hope we can go to Europe on tour, including there. Please enjoy our record and wait for the chance to meet us! Thank you!!

Cleave is:

Daihei Yamanaka: guitar, vocals

Shuhei Dohi: guitar

Tomo Kamata: guitar

Shota Enotomo: bass

Koichi Watanabe: drums

Official website: www.cleave-rock.com

FAVOURERED FILMOGRAPHY

In this new section of BCM members of the Belgian Cupcakes take the time to talk about their personal favourites of Japanese cinema and television.

Okuribito (2008)

Movie review by Caroline Heylighen

Okuribito (おくりびと), known in English as 'Departures', is a Japanese dramatic movie directed by Yôjirô Takita. The movie was released in Japan in September 2008, and in 2009 it won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars.



The movie tells the story of *Daigo Kobayashi* (played by *Masahiro Motoki*), a cellist in Tokyo who decides to move back to his small hometown with his wife. There he finds a job for which he has to 'assist departures'. Unsure of what exactly that means, he soon discovers that his job is to clean, dress and apply cosmetics to people who passed away. Disgusted at first, Daigo soon discovers that his job also has a beautiful side. However, death, and everything surrounding it, is still a big taboo in Japan. Daigo soon finds himself torn between the fulfillment he gets from his job and the disapproval from the people around him.

This drama might not be the type of movie that is usually 'on the radar' with fans of anime, manga or J-culture, whose main interest usually goes to adaptations of manga and anime stories (*Death Note*, *Battle Royale*, etc.) or the popular cult horror movies (*Ringu*, *Ju-on*, etc.). Furthermore, being from 2008 the movie is not new. However, for anyone who enjoys watching a good movie from time to time, *Okuribito* is an absolute must-see.

And here's a fact that might be of interest to anime fans: the music for *Okuribito* was composed by *Joe Hisaishi*, the man who is also responsible for the soundtracks of many of *Hayao Miyazaki's* films, including amongst others: *My Neighbour Totoro*, *Spirited Away*, *Howl's Moving Castle* and *Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea*.



Kagi no Kakatta Heya (Locked Room Mysteries)

Drama review by Valerie Vliegen

The story: *Aoto Junko* is a newbie intern at *Serizawa's* law firm. On the first day, she is sent out to meet a client on his behalf. He reminds her not to offend the client in any way. With this advice in mind she unwittingly promises to help investigate a supposed suicide of a funeral services company's president. *Serizawa* is angry and tells her they don't have time to take up such a task and the police has already

classified it as a suicide. While at a bank vault, *Aoto* presses a button which causes the vault door to close, trapping her boss with the bank's president. This is serious as the door can only be unlocked the following Monday (It's Friday). Enter *Enomoto Kei*, our Locked Room hero, a security guy with black frames, earplugs and a passion for locks. He manages to open the vault in 20 minutes which makes *Aoto* admire him very much. That day after rescuing the boss out of the vault he's asked to help reveal a mystery behind a locked room murder. He couldn't care less about solving the murder mystery but he is intrigued by the term 'Locked Room' and decides to inspect this matter as he has nothing better to do. He will join *Aoto* and *Serizawa* as they are facing different locked room mysteries.

My thoughts: Let me tell you this first: I'm a big lover of detective drama's, so when reading about *Kagi no Kakatta Heya* I knew I wanted to see this. Add *Satoshi Ohno* who was great in *Maou* (another J-drama) and you get me watching this. Now instead of your normal detective drama, the culprit is a most always hinted or known at the beginning of the episode. But this in fact makes it interesting. It's not about the culprit, it's about the way they used the locked room to murder the victim. While you might be thinking, this sounds like a drama where every episode is the same you are wrong. The backstory is the same, you have a locked room and a victim but each episode is interesting enough so you won't feel like you're rewatching the same script over and over. This drama has an easy pace, a lot of (unintentional) humor which made me laugh out loud quite a few times. The interaction between the three main characters is really interesting to see. As for acting: *Ohno* is really great as *Enomoto*, almost like his real-life persona. He has sparks in his eyes when he talks about locks. He's able to make people laugh with his straight face replying to any random thing his two sidekicks say. *Toda Erika* also does a good job as *Aoto*. She is somewhat overacting in some situations but I believe this suits her as she is supposed to be pure and straightforward while *Sato Koichi*, playing *Serizawa*, is just plain fun. It's hilarious to see him meddle in his own mistakes and coming to admire *Enomoto*. The drama uses a lot of background music to intensify a scene, add humor or make certain developments look better. I think this is a nice touch which helps in most cases. As for the outro which is *Arashi's* 'Face Down' single, it really adds to the feel of the drama. Most of the time episodic stories don't work for me but I kept watching and really enjoyed this drama.

Interview with Hugh Ashton

Meet Hugh Ashton, a British expat living in Japan, from where he writes many an excellent book. Not only tales set in contemporary Japan, but also stories of alternative history and our favourite sleuth Sherlock Holmes.

You've written tales of Japan (*Tales of Old Japanese*), a contemporary thriller (*At the Sharpe End*), alternative history books (*Red Wheels Turning* and *Beneath Grey Skies*) and now more adventures of Sherlock Holmes (*Tales from the Deed Box*), what kind of genre would you still love to tackle?

Maybe straight historical fiction – a novel of a past that actually happened. Taking real-life historical characters and examining their motives and their feelings. To a certain extent I did it with Hitler and Goering in "*Beneath Gray Skies*", and Lenin and Zinoviev in "*Red Wheels Turning*", and I am in the middle of doing it with Stalin and Trotsky in my latest, but I'm not examining them in the light of real events – I'm taking real characters and asking how they would behave in fictional situations. A novel set in Moscow in 1941 against *Barbarossa* would be fascinating, for example. Or even a *Len Deighton*-type history would be interesting to research and write.

I've also just published a book of short stories about the older generation of Japanese. They're the closest thing to Literature with a capital L that I have published so far, and I rather like them.

"*Tales of Old Japanese*" contains five short stories, all rather bitter-sweet.

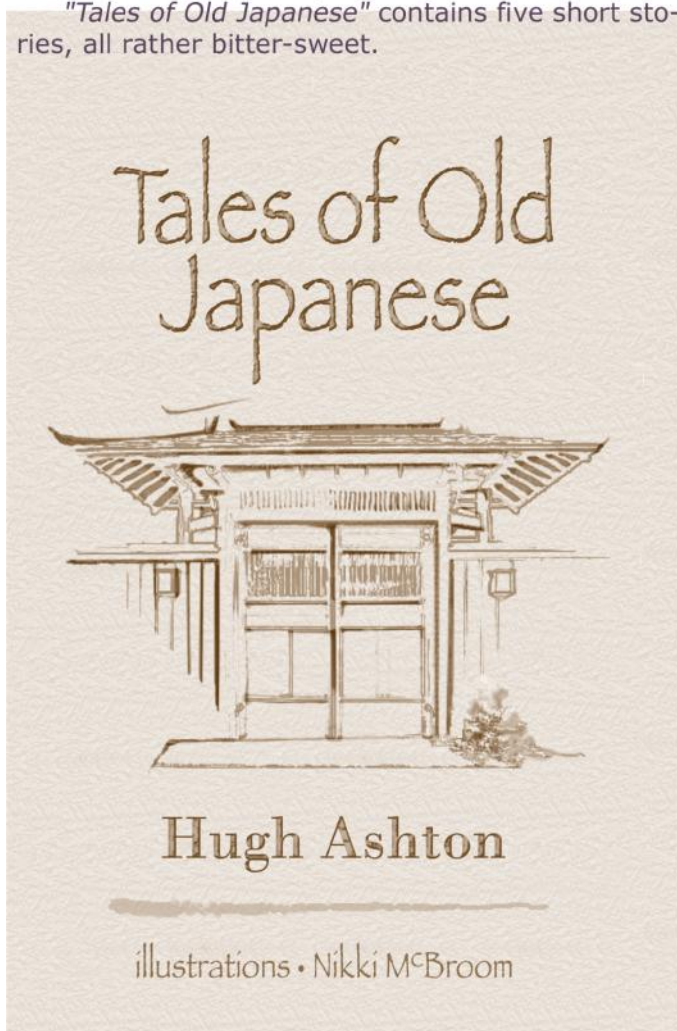
How would you say that living in Japan influences your writing?

It's a big influence, but in a negative way. I am cut off from contemporary British and US culture, and I could never write a book set in contemporary Britain or America. I wouldn't know the society well enough to do it accurately. So I have to go elsewhere. There are two ways I can do this – the first is geographically. Write about what you know – and I did that with "*At the Sharpe End*" and with "*Tales of Old Japanese*". Japanese residents who have read "*At the Sharpe End*" like it because it's a realistic look at life in Tokyo. "*Tales of Old Japanese*" has only just come out, so I'm waiting to see what other people think about it.

Or I can move back in time (by the way, zombies and vampires are not an option for me). Hence my alternative histories, which I research pretty thoroughly, even though they are alternative, and my Holmes books. I am in a position, thanks to the Internet, to be able to research the background for these, no matter where my geographical location may be, as well as anyone else in the world.

Would you say Sherlock Holmes is popular in Japan?

Very much so. I joke that whatever interest exists anywhere in the world, you will find a group of Japanese doing it – perfectly. Whether it's underwater motorcycling, nude bagpipe playing or Sherlock Holmes fandom, there will be Japanese enthusiasts who are practicing the art and who have refined it to an unimaginable degree. The deerstalker and curly pipe cliché is strong here – as strong as in English-speaking countries. Of course, many Japanese will never have read the books in the original – and I can't tell you how good the translations are.



Milky Holmes cosplayers in London, UK.
Photo by Danny Choo (dannychoo.com).



Your *Tales of the Deed Box* are like new tales by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle himself, what inspired you to write in his style and not give your own completely new twist to Sherlock Holmes or contemporise him?

For a start, I like Conan Doyle's style – long rambling sentences, adverbs, archaisms, the lot. It's distinctive, and it's relatively easy for me to write in. It's enjoyable to craft these sentences. I suppose I could write like *Dashiell Hammett* or *Raymond Chandler* (not as well, though), but I couldn't write Holmes stories that way. There's no way I want to change the character of Holmes – he's great as he is. The only thing is that *Watson* published only those stories which he felt he could publish at the time without upsetting public opinion. There is, I feel, much more to Holmes than Conan Doyle was prepared to let on, and I hope my stories help to extend Holmes' character – and Watson's. I like Watson as a person, and I find it very easy to slip into his skin and endure Holmes' idiosyncrasies as well as share in his triumphs.

Do you find inspiration in tales of Sherlock Holmes other than the originals or other (detective) stories?

I try to avoid the Holmes pastiches, even when they tell the same stories as I am telling (or at least they are stories with the same titles). I don't want to take other people's views of Holmes on board, even unconsciously. Other stories – oh yes. I like many of the early thrillers/detective stories of that time or a little later. *Edgar Wallace*, *William le Queux*, *R. Austin Freeman* and so on. Really great for atmosphere and detail of Holmes and his world.

Which of the more modern stories and approaches to Mr Holmes do you like best?

The *BBC Sherlock* set now with the *Cumberbatch/Freeman* team is fantastic. I'm in awe. It is so close to the originals and yet so up to date. Script, dialog, plot, acting, setting, camera work. Fantastic. Best Holmes on film ever. I don't like the *Downey/Law* movies – they have little in common with Holmes except the names and the setting.

Which of the original stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is your personal favourite?

I like "*The Yellow Face*" – there is no crime involved, but a great deal of humanity, and Sherlock gets it completely wrong. For that reason, I like it a lot. For pure detection, I like "*The Norwood Builder*", and "*The Sign of Four*" takes some beating. "*The Red-Headed League*" is fun.

Sherlock Holmes versus Hercule Poirot, who would solve the crime first?

I'm not a Poirot fan at all, so I would have to say that the little grey cells would be beaten. Holmes is a good deal more methodical than Poirot, despite his eccentricities. He has a vast reserve of facts and knowledge on which to draw, and that is the secret of so much police work – having the data there, and knowing which parts of it are relevant. Poirot tends to rely more on the facts immediately available to him, while Holmes has an intelligence network and a database (on paper, of course).

Are there plans for another Deed Box?

"*Secrets from the Deed Box of John H. Watson MD*" is well underway. "*The Bradfield Push*" (currently available as *Kindle* only) will be included, as will "*The Conk-Singleton Forgery Case*" and "*The Enfield Rope*" – all written and in the process of being edited. There will be one more story which has yet to be finished and titled. After that, I am not sure... The Deed Box is rapidly emptying.

You've written a prequel to *Beneath Grey Skies (Red Wheels Turning)*, is there going to be a sequel as well?

There's another prequel in the works, set in Russia in the Civil War. *Trotsky*, *Stalin*, *Kolchak*, *Ungern-Sternberg* – all in there. I even drag a semi-retired *Admiral Togo* in there by the scruff of his neck. *Brian Finch-Malloy* has a Japanese sidekick in this one. Provisional title is "*Gold on the Tracks*", and I see it being a monster of a book if I am not careful.

What advice would you give to aspiring writers?

Two conflicting pieces of advice.

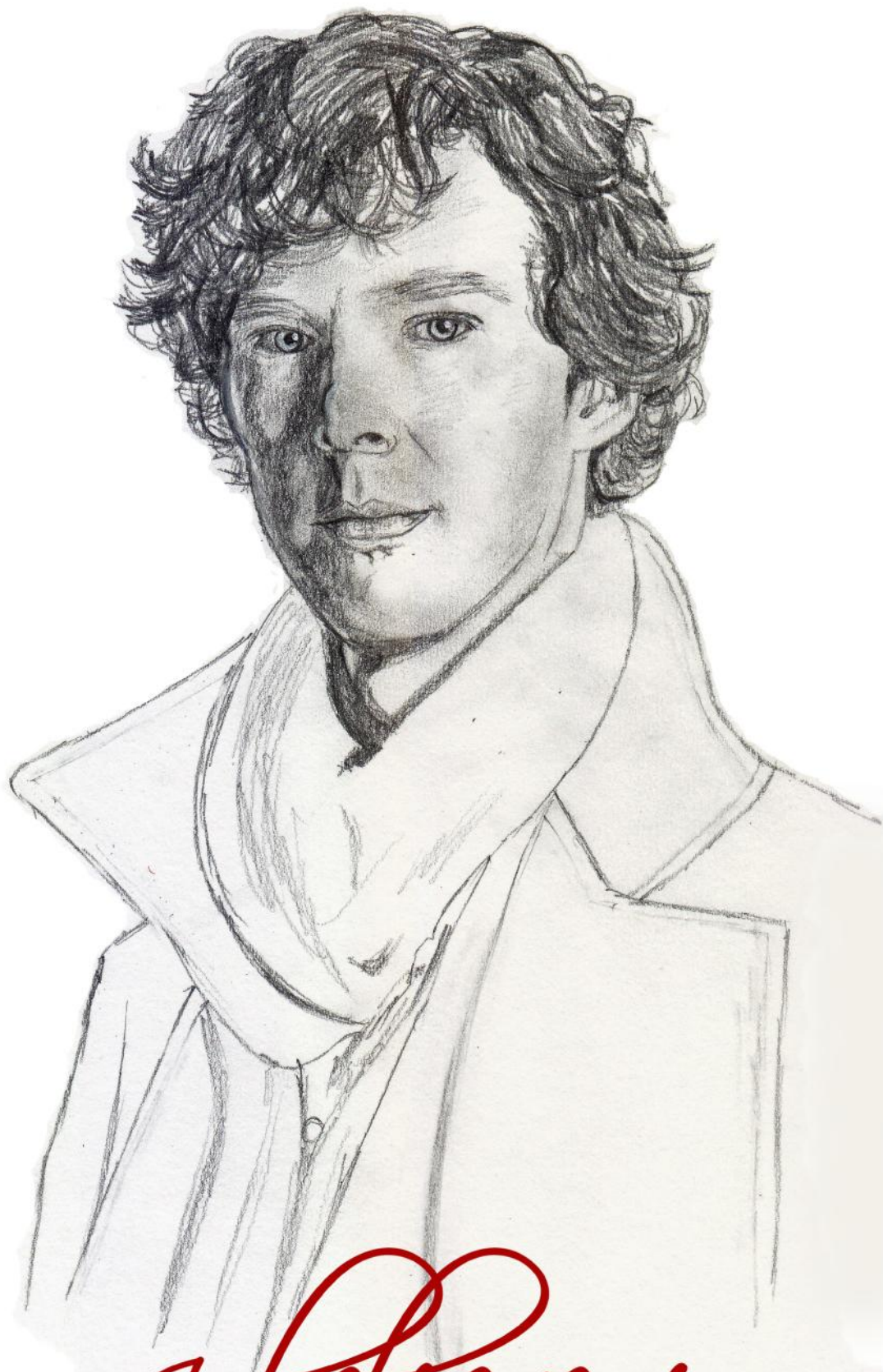
First, believe in yourself and what you are doing. I am convinced that to be a successful writer you need an ego, or at least a lot of self-confidence. If you don't believe in the idea of your book, no-one else will.

The second is never trust your own judgement. Always get someone neutral (not family or friend) to criticise and suggest improvements before you send your work off to an agent or go in for self-publishing.

They're not as contradictory as all that, though. It's really a matter of having the arrogance to believe in the big ideas, and the humility to know when the details need correction. After that, it's elementary.

Official website: <http://hughashtonbooks.info>

Sherlock would
beat Poirot's
little grey cells.



*I believe in
Sherlock Holmes!*

The Devil wears frills too

I would like to raise a point, or at least attempt to raise one, on the alteration of dresses and then also replicas in this edition of the Devil's Advocate, fuelled by the ongoing debacle with Mexican band of actors EME15. For those blissfully unaware of the most recent drama in the international community (it's something new every month it seems), the chicks in the band are wearing *Angelic Pretty* dresses that have been altered (shortened them mostly which turned them *ita*) and now apparently, supposedly, according to hearsay (as there seems to be no actual proof of this) claim it's their original designs and are calling it "*cupcake fashion*". Well I assume that in reality the costume department of the show they star in, in combination of the producers, is behind their wardrobe but you know, let's blame the band and not think a little further here instead. EME 15 have said on twitter they call their style cupcake fashion, but there is no proof of copyright infringement (at least not when I'm writing this article).



Two girls from the band wearing their altered Angelic Pretty dresses at the Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards Mexico. Photo by Getty Images.

If there is an infringement matters, by all means get cross about it. And when those honestly loving AP and not own a single replica get cross I can at least somewhat understand their ire. To the replica wearers amongst us: do explain to me how this is different than wearing a replica? Please take note that I'm not judging those that wears replicas, to each their own after all and that's a choice everyone has to make for themselves (heck I wear Secret Shop tea parties, I'm not too proud to admit it) I'm just trying to raise a few points and make people think. Because you know, at least AP earned some cold hard cash off these people, whereas with replicas that's not the case, there someone else is making said cold hard cash reproducing something made by AP. And ok sure, replica makers don't claim the print is their own, but they do produce something made by someone else and then sell it under their name. And a lot of people protesting this now do wear replicas. And those are still copyright infringement when push comes to shove.

Another question you should ask yourself if this entire situation upsets or angers you. Would you still feel equally upset or angry if these girls were wearing the exact same type of dress if it had been newly made from scratch (so if they had not used a brand dress as a base)? And if they were also calling these newly made dresses cupcake fashion? Think about that one.

Allow me to continue on the point of copyright infringement now we're on it. It's admirable to fight it, and you

should fight it. But the fact of the matter is that replicating is such an extensive practice with everything and everywhere that it's very hard to avoid it and put a stop to it. Even people with the BEST intentions have funded this by buying stuff in a high street chain not knowing where the original design comes from (most likely someone's runway show). Let's also not forget that Lolita brands steal ideas from each other all the time, we're ok with that, so taken the possible issue of infringement aside, why do we have such a problem with these girls making their own thing out of Lolita? They aren't even claiming it IS Lolita people. And if these new *ita* style of theirs caught on, why even care, it's not marketed as Lolita!

I can understand where the name comes from by the way: they work for a kid's show, of course they're going to use something they think is cute to describe the way they dress. It really isn't some mean and vile trick of the girls to hurt Lolitas, it's just a marketing strategy towards their target audience. Nothing more, nothing less.

Does this mean you can't get angry or insulted when something happens in the fashion you love? Hell no, you have every right to fume. Does it mean you have to jump to all sorts of conclusions with incomplete information presented to you? Hell no, think before you do. Stay calm, point it out to AP if you wish to do so in a polite and composed manner, and let them deal with it. Think about everything going on before you focus on just one aspect of a story. It's seldom black and white when it comes to creativity and people mucking around with the creations of others. And one should know for certain if something dubious IS going on before spreading posts making it seem that it is all true whilst the matter is unconfirmed.

Kudos to all the people that DID post saying: "I don't know whether it's true or not", but this is going on, and there may be an issue of infringement. I would like to raise awareness in case it is true. Kudos because you didn't flip out and made it seem like there is definitely a case of infringement going on.

Has anyone stopped and considered what the repercussions could be for EME 15? If they indeed claimed someone else's intellectual property as their own then they have that lawsuit coming. Realistically seen it'll be on the costumer and/or producer's head mind you.

But if they haven't, and someone outraged enough about their take to AP dresses has just made it up, there could be a lot of undeserved, potentially professional, grief in it for these people. And no matter how much you hate someone else's take on the fashion you love, no one deserves to be brought into trouble through unsubstantiated rumours (or blatant lies) that have started to lead their own lives thanks to the internet. Think about that for a moment and always think before you act.



Cupcake Snap!

Left to right (top): Hilde, Agnes. (Bottom) Valerie and Annso.
Photography (top photos) by Babo's Barning (and innocent copywriters,
other photos provided by Valerie and Annso.



Event Calendar

If you have an event in Europe you wish to see published in the next edition of Belgian Cupcakes Magazine, please email me all the information at hildekitten@gmail.com and it will be included in the appropriate edition!

July

Japan Expo (J-culture convention)

Date: July 5-8

Venue: Paris-Nord Villepinte Exhibition Centre

City: Villepinte (near Paris)

Country: France

Tickets & info: www.japan-expo.com/en/

Atsusacon (J-culture convention)

Date: July 14-15

Venue: Antwerp Expo

City: Antwerp

Country: Belgium

Tickets & info: www.atsusacon.be

Monodocon (J-culture convention)

Date: July 21

City: Budapest

Country: Hungary

Tickets & info: www.mondocon.hu

August

We have not received any dates for August at the time of publication.

September

Lix (J-rock concert)

Date: September 7-9

Venue: Tegera Arena

City: Leksand

Country: Sweden

Tickets & info: www.rencon.se

Band website: www.lixaltair.com

RÂMEN EVENTS PRESENTE

RÂMEN FESTIVAL 3

28 JUILLET 2012 - 19H

LA JAVA - PARIS

105 RUE DU FAUBOURG DU TEMPLE

75010 PARIS - M[°]BELLEVILLE OU GONCOURT

TICKETS 20€ + FRAIS DE LOC. FNAC OU MOXITY. 25€ SUR PLACE

LINE-UP:

ACE (JP) -

ANONYMOUS CONFEDERATE ENSEMBLE

GOTHIQUE PRINCE KEN (AUS)

GAIDJIN (FR)

WWW.RAMEN-EVENTS.COM

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Logos: J4, JaME, MOXITY, FNAC, KAWAII MUSIC, QU.



st2

Tentoonstelling

Stefania, Tinne en Zaliha

Vernissage: 6 Juli 2012 vanaf 20u

Open: 7 en 8 juli, 14 en 15 juli en 21 en 22 juli

van 14u tot 18u

waar: Pastorij: dorp 68, 2230 Herselt

NEO Magazine 100th Issue Party

Date: July 7

Venue: Bloomsbury Bowling Lanes

City: London

Country: United Kingdom

Info (because the entrance is FREE): <https://www.facebook.com/events/117565998384058/>

TOKYO 2 SEOUL (electro party)

Date: July 7

Venue: Le Brazil Tropical

City: Paris

Country: France

Tickets & info: <http://www.facebook.com/events/495908273756189/>

Lolita convention (Lolita fashion convention)

Date: July 8-9

Venue: Pelleport66

City: Paris

Country: France

Tickets & info: <http://conventionlolitaenglish.wordpress.com/>

Liquid Boy (concert)

Date: July 13

Venue: Le Midland (ex-Le Select)

City: Lille

Country: France

Tickets & info: <http://www.moxity.com/events/liquid-boy-+-gloss-glam-rock-night>

ACE (Anonymous Confederate Ensemble)

(visual-kei band)

Date: July 29

Venue: Bar Live 301

City: Roubaix

Country: France

Tickets & info: <http://www.moxity.com/events/ace-a-roubaix>

Band website: <http://www.facebook.com/Anonymous.Confederate.Ensemble>

Other tour dates for ACE

07/06 Cologne, Germany @ WERKSTATT

07/07 Hamburg, Germany @ HEADCRASH

07/08 Utrecht, Netherlands @ TIVOLI

07/11 Warsaw, Poland @ Progresja

07/12 Vienna, Austria @ Reigen

07/13 Budapest, Hungary @ TBA

07/14 Saint Petersburg, Russia @ Artica

07/15 Moscow, Russia @ Relax

07/18 Ljubljana, Slovenia @ Gala Hala

07/21 Prague, Czech Republic @ Matrix

07/22 Munich, Germany @ Feierwerk

07/24 Bucharest, Romania @ TBA

07/25 Sofia, Bulgaria @ The Box Club

07/27 Linköping, Sweden @ Narcon Festival

07/28 Paris France @ Club La Java

Crossfaith on tour

Country: UK, Scotland

Tour dates & locations:

Sep 26 – Birmingham The Library (HMV Institute)

Sep 27 – Manchester Club Academy

Sep 28 – Sheffield Corporation

Sep 29 – Glasgow Garage

Sep 30 – Newcastle O2 Academy

Tickets & info: <http://japanunderground.wordpress.com/2012/06/12/crossfaith2012return/>

Band website: www.crossfaith.jp/



Recipe for chocolate cupcakes with chocolate buttercream

Recipe and photo by Agnes Van de Genachte

What you will need for the cupcakes:

- 125gr sugar
- 125gr butter
- 125gr flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 portion vanilla sugar (10gr)
- 2-3 spoons of milk
- 100gr chocolate
- 1 spoon of cocoa powder
- Salt

1. Mix the yellow of the eggs with the sugar and the vanilla sugar, keep the white of the eggs aside
2. Melt the butter, add it to the mix. Sift the flour and add it to the mix too
3. Add some salt to the white of the eggs and stir until it looks like snow
4. Mix the stirred white of egg and the milk with the rest of the dough
5. Melt the chocolate au-bain-marie and add it to the dough together with the cocoa powder
6. Put 12 paper forms in a muffin-form en put the dough in the paper forms
7. Place in a pre-heated oven at 180°C for 20 minutes

For vanilla cupcakes, just leave out the chocolate and the cocoa powder.

For the chocolate buttercream:

- 125gr powder sugar
- 40gr black chocolate
- 125gr soft butter

1. Melt the chocolate au-bain-marie
2. Stir the powder sugar and mix it gently with the butter
3. Mix the chocolate with the butter cream.
4. Put the chocolate butter cream in a pastry bag and decorate the cupcakes.



Forest fruit cupcakes and chocolate cupcakes with chocolate buttercream and sprinkles as extra decoration.

Lazy Afternoon Treat

Recipe and photo by Valerie Vliegen.

Ingredients:

- * Puff pastry
- * Any filling you like, I'll give you some hints ;)
 - Banana + chocolate paste (Nutella works very well)
 - Marshmallows + Nutella
 - Apple
 - Crumbled nuts
- * 1 egg
- * Granulated sugar

How to make this tasty treat:

1. Preheat the oven according to the puff pastry package.
2. Take out your puff pastry and cut out 4 squares.
If you want smaller or bigger pieces, cut them any size you want.
3. Spread a couple of tablespoons Nutella or crumble some chocolate in the center.
Be sure to leave 1 cm border around the edges.
4. Add your fruit or nuts or other edible things you can find around the house.
5. Fold one corner over to make a little triangle.
6. Take a fork and press the edges closed.
7. Take your egg and brush it on the top, then sprinkle some sugar on top.
8. Bake for 22-25 minutes (for the temperature see the puff pastry package) or until the pastry turns golden.
9. Remove them from the oven and let them cool for about 5 minutes.
10. Add some ice cream or powdered sugar and enjoy your easy treat!



SUBMISSION RULES

1. Commitment.

When you agree to do something for the magazine, please commit and actually DO it. There's nothing as annoying as people that agree to do something and then don't. Especially right before deadline. Yes people can become ill and life may get in the middle, but the deadline is announced well beforehand and there's really no need to wait 'till the very last moment to submit an article. Generally there is a lot of time for people to submit their pieces. I edit something as soon as I get all the pieces, just to make sure that I can get everything done in time and health and life can only provide minimal disturbance.

If someone doesn't submit to an edition without a valid reason or explanation, I reserve the right to set an earlier deadline for the person that hasn't submitted before whilst they committed, to make sure that we get the article in the next magazine they wish to cooperate on. I'm not doing this to hurt feelings or step on toes, but I don't want to give people the opportunity to hijack the magazine (with or without malicious intent). That sounds harsh, I agree, but in my personal experience some people systematically volunteer and never deliver, thus excluding others from the opportunity to submit and keeping the magazine from getting said piece in. It's exactly that I'm trying to avoid by putting rules like these in place.

Being chief editor isn't just all the fun and good times, it is a lot of hard work and sometimes I will have to make harsh decisions and this is one of them. I'm sorry if this upsets someone, that's not my intention, I'm trying to do right by the magazine and especially the people that genuinely want to contribute.

2. Deadlines

Stick to the deadline. They are announced well in time. You can not only find it right here, but also on the very last page of the magazine. It's easy to find the deadline when you forget when it is.

The deadline for issue 6 is **Sunday, August 26**.

Submissions not in my inbox when I turn on my computer the morning of the 29th of June will not appear in the magazine. Plain and simple as that. Respect the deadline people!

The reason behind this is simple: not only does everyone have ample time to meet the deadline; from experience I know that extending it means that the magazine is likely never to happen.

Also: editing takes a lot of work, so if I want to release in a timely manner after the deadline I can't wait for articles 'till Hell freezes over.

3. Submitting

All entries for the magazine must be submitted by email on hildekitten@gmail.com

That is also the address where you can reach me with questions, remarks etc etc etc.

If you have an idea for the next edition, don't hesitate to let me know!

Do not send me forum PMs, I don't do pm and your message won't be answered, but I do answer my email so you can reach me on there without problems.

When you submit artwork or photos, they must be at least 2000 pixels and jpg files.

(e.g. a photo of 1333 x 2000 or 1500 x 2000 works fine, everything larger too, everything smaller may become problematic at final edit). Files that are too small are no use to me so please take that into account.

Also, be mindful of quality, I cannot stress this enough!

ONLY submit pieces you have the right to submit. If someone complains about copyright infringement over a piece you've submitted I will send these people to you. This is YOUR responsibility and you will be held accountable in an infringement case.

As far as the **spelling** is concerned, we do NOT allow text speech, texts written like you speak or things filled with purposefully bad spelling. Everyone makes mistakes and that's not an issue, hopefully those mistakes will be caught during the proofreading (not everything gets caught though; we're all only human after all).

That aside, everyone can operate a spell check I'm sure, please do that before submitting an article. It gets rid of the more obvious mistakes and makes life easier for proofreaders and editor alike. It's just a matter of common courtesy.

About **photography and art**: I am aware that not everyone is equally talented. It is in no way so that one needs to have some kind of art degree to be allowed to submit to the magazine. We may not expect a degree, but we do, however, expect a certain quality. It doesn't matter that you don't have professional materials, just do your very best to submit things that are presentable.

Next issue:

Next issue will be the spanning the months September and October 2012, it will be our first ever Halloween edition!

Meet reports
Event reports

Cupcake Focus:
Style Spotlight: Holiday Lolita - Halloween

Lolita Extraordinaire, interview with Katie and Eline of Fly Away Fashion

The devil wears frills too...

Recipe for pumpkin pie
Artwork

Movie and music reviews and with some luck even one or more interviews as well.

Cupcake Snap

